

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 13, 2009

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the House Republican Standards on Congressional appropriations initiatives, I am submitting the following information regarding projects that were included at my request in H.R. 3170, the Fiscal Year 2010 Financial Services Appropriations Bill:

Pinellas County Business Assistance Partnership Network

Account: Small Business Administration

Legal name and address of requesting entity: Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners, 315 Court Street, Clearwater, FL 33756

Description of request: \$262,000 is included in the bill for Pinellas County to support the Business Assistance Partnership Network, an innovative partnership program to grow small businesses and entrepreneurs in Pinellas County. The Pinellas County Economic Development office has implemented and seeks to expand, a tri-partnership with many of the county's municipalities, chambers of commerce, and libraries that provides free business planning, financial resources, and technical assistance services on issues ranging from start-ups and major expansions to permitting and zoning information and workforce development. Business development services include, but are not limited to: financing assistance with SBA loans, micro loans and conventional loans; commercial and real estate financing programs; reference library featuring a full-range of business publications; computer workstations and maintenance and enhancement of website portal; assistance with contacts, business agreements and business/marketing plans; qualification assistance for industrial revenue bonds; training classes for business start-up, entrepreneurial assessment, business financing, tax regulations, bookkeeping/accounting methods, marketing, and procurement opportunities; business counseling services, education training courses, customized business start-up guides, marketing plans and business plans, international export assistance, government contracts and certification assistance. The Business Assistance Partnership Network has a proven record of success. Since its inception in 1998, over 10,000 businesses have participated in face to face interviews and provided more than 35,000 business and technical solutions for local entrepreneurs. In the last three years, the program has secured more than \$2,300,000 in business loans to create or retain more than 300 jobs. It is anticipated that a continuation of the program would sustain 10 positions and potentially create/sustain 125–200 jobs annually. The Business Assistance Partnership Network provides services essential to small business entrepreneurs hurt by current economic conditions and will help

secure public sector jobs. Partner organizations include: Clearwater Regional Chamber of Commerce; Largo Mid-Pinellas Chamber of Commerce; Upper Tampa Bay Chamber of Commerce; Palm Harbor Chamber of Commerce; Pinellas Park/Gateway Chamber of Commerce; Safety Harbor Chamber of Commerce; Seminole Chamber of Commerce; St. Petersburg Area Chamber of Commerce; Hispanic Business Initiative Fund; Tarpon Springs Chamber of Commerce; Florida High Tech Corridor; STAR TECH; Tampa Bay Technology Forum; and regional local governments. No previous federal funding has been requested for this project.

Southwest Florida Partnership for Developing Business Infrastructure in Software Engineering

Account: Small Business Administration

Legal name and address of requesting entity: Florida Gulf Coast University, 10501 Florida Gulf Coast University Boulevard South, Fort Myers, FL 33965

Description of request: \$261,000 is included in the bill for Florida Gulf Coast University to establish a partnership with five other Florida state universities through its departments of Computer Science and Computer Information Systems, and local industrial companies active in software service industries, to spur innovation activities in a broad area of Information Technology. The primary objective of the proposed activities will include the interaction with small businesses whose primary line of business is software development, to foster commercialization of selected innovative software technologies developed jointly by FGCU and its industrial partners. Initial commitments have been obtained from a number of local companies in the following sectors: e-commerce, transportation, hospitality management, health care, financial services, and technology. Their participation has been documented recently by establishing two important initiatives: (1) Software Technologies Distinguished Lecture Series, conducted for the past two years (<http://lectureseries.fgcu.edu>), and (2) Southwest Florida Regional Technology Partnership (<http://www.swfrtp.org/>). Two supportive activities to achieve this major objective will be also conducted: (1) establishing the infrastructure for software innovation at FGCU by expanding a software engineering educational and training program and a software engineering lab; (2) systematically educating the workforce in innovative software technologies to help strengthen the local job market. The project will have economic and societal impact by establishing the innovation infrastructure in the region, producing graduates in software engineering specialization to feed the local industries, and, in the long run, by helping move to the knowledge-based economy. The project will boost software innovations originating in the region and thus change the structure of workforce and employment base by increasing the number of knowledge-based jobs and generating different employment patterns. No previous federal funding was requested for this project.

Turnaround Business Assistance Program

Account: Small Business Administration

Legal name and address of requesting entity: University of West Florida, 11000 University Parkway, Pensacola, FL 32514

Description of request: \$262,000 is included in the bill for the University of West Florida, in partnership with four other Florida universities, for its Turnaround Business Assistance Program which will become a statewide intensive technical assistance program for the statewide business community to halt the accelerated number of business failures and closures and enhance the survivability rate of small businesses. The program will use an innovative approach to assist these second stage businesses through the creation of an on-line turnaround tips training portal that includes emails, video clips and a blog to share effective tips on turnaround strategies; a comprehensive "intensive care" treatment package that includes use of an assessment tool to identify critical issues in marketing, finance, technology and management practices; and specialized training workshops on turnaround strategies. Reportable metrics will include items such as in-business status, employee retention/ growth, change in sales, and workshop attendance. The program will operate through the Florida Small Business Development Center Network's infrastructure of 33 centers located from Key West to Pensacola as well as utilize the outreach capacity of two mobile assistance centers to deliver and promote its services. This program will be implemented and administered by the highly successful Florida Small Business Development Center Network, designated through Florida statutes as the state's principal small business assistance program. The Florida SBDC program has shown a positive revenue impact on the state's budget and has directly assisted in the creation of more than 280,000 jobs and started more than 5,500 new businesses. No previous funding was requested for this project.

RECOGNITION TO THE FRANK LOWRY FAMILY FOR BEING SELECTED THE 2009 OUTSTANDING FARM FAMILY

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 13, 2009

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, it is a great honor for me to rise today to extend congratulations to the Frank and Melinda Lowry family for being selected the 2009 Santa Rosa County Outstanding Farm Family.

Frank is the youngest of 14 children and is a third generation farmer. His dad was a row-crop farmer, had a dairy, and a herd of beef cattle. Frank took over the farm from his oldest brother Clifton and has been farming for the past 40 years. Today the Lowrys raise a variety of produce and row crops on 800

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